

## **South Yorkshire Authorities – Member Development Group**

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 For members to approve re-establishing the South Yorkshire Member Development Group
- 1.2 For members to consider the terms of reference and make further suggestions
- 1.3 For members to consider the South Yorkshire Member Development activities for 2010-2011 and make further suggestions

### **2. Introduction**

South Yorkshire Members worked effectively together on member development from 2007-2009. Rotherham Councillors led this initiative, chairing a South Yorkshire Member Development Group. This group oversaw a programme of member development activity including:- questioning skills, chairing skills, master classes in decision making sessions; ward visits/mentoring and Leadership Academy.

In line with savings plans being drawn up, member development services are seeking cost efficiencies where-ever possible. At the same time, the challenges facing the public sector will demand more of Members in terms of their knowledge and skills.

It is important we build on the strengths we have, but work more collaboratively at a sub-regional level to increase capacity, procure learning packages and realise efficiencies. Districts could deliver joint training and awareness around generic topics such as corporate parenting, licensing, planning, safeguarding, chairing skills, scrutiny etc.

The Joint Authorities – largely Police and Fire – can deliver sector-led training at a regional level, and much progress has already been made through dedicated Regional Police Authority and Regional Fire Authority networks.

Such work will need to be driven by Members – for Members – with officer support to seek out external funding where available, and to share knowledge on learning and development schedules.

### **3. South Yorkshire Member Development Group**

It is proposed to re-establish the South Yorkshire Member Development Group, inviting Chairs, Deputy Chairs from each District, Joint Authority Member Development Group to attend, plus nominated representatives as listed in **Appendix A**.

The purpose of this Group is to oversee, monitor and evaluate learning and development activities for Councillors in South Yorkshire, approving an annual programme. To achieve this it is proposed that the Group meets three times a

year. Rotherham Borough Council has offered to host the meetings, providing managerial and business support.

To help build capacity, the Group is asked to consider the project plan as set out below:-

<b>Capacity Building – Member Development Activities</b>	<b>RIEP</b>	<b>Authority contribution/Lead</b>
Administration	200	Rotherham
Leadership Development - Self Assessment Questionnaire on understanding yourself/others (MBTI)	400	Sheffield
Shared resources – contribution to the regional resource hub, workshop outcomes, workbooks, pod-casts, videos, etc leads as listed below:-		
Scrutiny	500	Rotherham
Fire and Rescue/Police Authority	800	SY Joint Authorities
Governance	400	Sheffield
Community Leadership - Equality, diversity, community cohesion	400	All
Annual Development programme	300	Group to decide leads each February and lead using own budgets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chairing</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensing</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speaking off the Cuff</li> </ul>		
Expenditure	3,000	
RIEP Income	3,000	

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 For members to approve re-establishing the South Yorkshire Member Development Group
- 4.2 For members to consider the terms of reference and make further suggestions involvement of Parish Councils.
- 4.3 For members to consider the South Yorkshire Member Development activities for 2010-2011 including training list with emphasis on Questioning Skills, Leadership and Master Classes in decision making and make further suggestions.

## **Appendix A**

### **South Yorkshire Member Development Working Group Terms of Reference**

#### **Membership**

This group is to include the Chairs and Deputies of each Authority's Member Development Group.

The Group will also consist of nominated representatives:

- One Parish Councillor from each Authority
- Any Councillor by invitation to observe
- Relevant supporting officers including Head of Democratic Services and Member Development , Member Development Officer, Political advisors, Parish Liaison Officer

#### **Meeting Frequency**

- Three times per year – December, February, September
- Use of email discussions between meetings.

#### **Purpose**

Oversee, monitor and evaluate learning and development activities for Councillors in South Yorkshire

Support councillors to be more effective in their roles by providing learning and development opportunities, which are tailored to meet individual needs.

#### **Roles**

- Act as a champion for member development by ensuring cross-party leadership and ownership of Councillor Learning and Development.
- Provide a focus and sounding Committee to steer the development planning.
- Develop a learning and development activities and annual programme.
- Advise on personal and skill development programmes, including induction.
- Monitor the annual programme for appropriateness and relevance.
- Evaluate the activities and programme.
- Consider new learning and development initiatives, comparing best practice through regional and national networks.
- Recommend ways of enhancing councillors' skills and knowledge to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.
- Communicate the Development activities and programme to Leaders, Councillors, Executive Management Teams and Party Whips.
- Ensure that the programme is accessible, relevant, dynamic and in line with Government legislation.